(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that there are complaints of misuse of funds by some of these NGOs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Spread of mysterious disease in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

1517. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mysterious disease spread over some parts of the country especially in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal causing deaths of some people has since been diagnosed by Doctors and Scientists by coordination between States and Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties; and

(c) the assistance including expertise provided to affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently there was an outbreak of acute febrile illness with haemophysis (blood in sputum) in Hatkoti village of Shimla district which has been confirmed by National Institute of Communicable Diseases as pneumonic plague.

(b) From 4th February till 14th March, 2002 out of the sixteen

cases of plague detected in Himachal Pradesh and the four suspected cases with plague like symptoms from Chandigarh and its adjoining areas, 5 have died, 14 have been discharged after recovery and one is under treatment at PGIMER, Chandigarh and is progressing well.

(c) On receiving report from the nodal officer for National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases a team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases consisting of epidemiologist, microbiologist and entomologist proceeded to the affected areas of Himachal Pradesh 14.2.2002 and on 22.2.2002 another team consisting of 6 public health experts was sent to Chandigarh. The teams visited the affected areas and examined the patients in the hospitals. They assisted and advised the State health authorities in containing the spread of infection. The following actions were taken:

(i) The emergency medical requirements of the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh were promptly met with.

(ii) Guidelines were issued to health authorities of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana and U.T. of Chandigarh for containing the spread of infection.

(iii) Door to door interaction with the population in the affected and adjoining village for dispensing antibiotics, obtaining information about the new cases and educating the people was conducted.

(iv) fumigation of the patients' houses were carried out using Formalin (10%)

(v) About 28,000 to 30,000 people have been provided Chernoprophylaxis.

The significant components of these guidelines were:

Quarantine of the affected village and close contacts of the patients.

Chemoprophylaxis (using Doxycline/Tetracycline/Broad Spectrum antibiotics) administered to the close contacts of the patients, residents of the affected and neighbouring villages, doctors/paramedics

and health workers in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Uttaranchal. Fumigation of the patients' houses (have been fumigated using formalin (10%) in the affected villages, as well as the transport vehicles.

IEC campaign for reassuring the general public not to panic, and also advising them to report to health facilities in case there was fever, cough, etc.

Spread of killer disease in neighbouring States

1518. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mysterious disease with plague symptoms has spread in most of the villages in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether there is possibility of spreading of the killer disease in the neighbouring States also including National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases in various States; and

(d) whether all the hospitals in the north region have been alerted and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Recently there was an outbreak of acute febrile illness with haemoptysis (blood in sputum) in Hatkoti village of Shimla district which has been confirmed by National Institute of Communicable Diseases as pneumonic plague.

(b) and (c) Following actions have been taken to prevent the possibility of the spread of the disease:

(i) On receiving report from the nodal officer for National